

supports the optical array and so that an axis of transmission of the optical array passes directly through the substrate; and

transmitting a plurality of optical signals of the optical array substantially through the plurality of optical gratings in the substrate.

9. (Once Amended) An apparatus for transmitting an optical communications signal, such apparatus comprising:

an optically transparent substrate;

*A!*  
*Cont.* an optical array, having a plurality of optical ports, attached to a surface of the optically transparent substrate, so that the optically transparent substrate mechanically supports the optical array and so that a plurality of transmission paths of the optical array pass directly through the substrate; and

a plurality of optical gratings disposed on a surface of the substrate, such that the transmission paths of the optical array pass substantially through the plurality of optical gratings.

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#### REMARKS

1. Reconsideration and further prosecution of the above-identified application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and discussion that follows. Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,056,448 to Sauter et al. After a careful review of the claims (as amended), it has been concluded that the rejections are in error and the rejections are,